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21 March 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Research and Reports

THROUGH :

FROM :

SUBJECT : Informal Comments on Interdiction Study Prepared for the  
DD/S&T

1. The information included in the Statement of the Problem on supplies needed is not clear. The figures given are estimates of total supply requirements under various conditions for VC and NVA forces, not North Vietnam forces, as stated. The 70 ton figure is made up of 58 tons supplied from sources within South Vietnam and 12 tons supplied from sources outside of South Vietnam under the assumption that each of the 111 battalions is engaged in combat once in every 35 days - the estimated current rate of combat. The 120 ton figure is made up of about 56 tons supplied from sources within South Vietnam and 64 tons supplied from sources outside of South Vietnam under the escalated scale of combat wherein each of the 111 battalions is engaged in combat once in every seven days. The 256 ton figure is made up of 85 tons supplied from sources within South Vietnam and 171 tons supplied from sources outside of South Vietnam under an assumption that VC and NVA forces will be expanded to 155 battalions and that each of these battalions engages in combat once in every three days. The tonnages that might be required to move through the passes for forward movement to South Vietnam, therefore, should be 12, 64 and 171 rather than 70, 120 and 256 as implied in the Statement of the Problem. These amounts do not include the supplies required by the Communist forces in the Laotian Panhandle, or an additional amount of possibly 30 tons that currently must be moved through the passes.

2. The same misunderstanding of supply requirements is perpetuated in the final paragraph under Background. It states: Present predictions are that this flow will increase from the current 70-120 tons a day to on the order of 256 tons per day. Apart from the error in the numbers, this statement does not take into account that some supplies are probably

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moving to South Vietnam by sea and through Cambodia. Moreover, the present flow of supplies through the Mu Gia Pass area based on reports from road watch teams is in the order of 70 to 90 tons per day. This flow includes supplies for current use and stockpiling not only for Communist forces in South Vietnam but also for Communist forces in the Laotian Panhandle.

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